

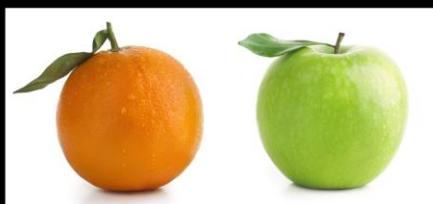
All Saints Day (observed) – 2025

Saturday, 11/1 at 4:00 | Sunday, 11/2 at 9:00

## Saints – A Comparison

**Oranges** and **Apples** are both Fruit, *but they have many differences!*

Church Bodies identify Saints, *but there are many differences!*



Let's compare some beliefs and practices with the Bible!

Text: NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends: Today we observe **All Saints Day**. It is a feast **created by the church** (609), UNLIKE Passover, Pentecost, etc. which were **commanded by God in [Lev. 23](#)**.

The **LCMS** and the **RCC** (Roman Catholic Church) both celebrate **All Saints Day**, *but there are some important differences*. Let's consider some of them, *always knowing [The Bible Is True](#)*.

### **1. A Little Church History:**

- a. During the lifetime of **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther**, the RCC was the only **official** Christian church body in the Holy Roman Empire.
- b. **In 1517**, Luther *began* to point out some of the inconsistencies of the RCC with his 95 theses. He posted them on the eve of **All Saints Day** to challenge practices that contradicted the Bible – *like the selling of indulgences to remove temporal punishments*. What is the contradiction? **1 John 1:7** “...the blood of

Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” To learn more, see the footnote.<sup>1</sup> We now focus on **saints**.

## 2. What Is a Saint?

- a. **Bible**: The Greek word, ἅγιος, can be translated holy – as in Holy Spirit, or saint. We can rightly say that saints are holy ones. Let’s learn more about saints as I ask and answer four questions:
- i. Are some saints physically alive and living on earth? **Yes!** “Peter... came down... to the saints who lived at Lydda” (Acts 9:32) and **Paul** wrote to the saints living in Rome (1:7), Corinth (1:2), Ephesus (1:1), Phillipi (1:1), and Colossae (1:2).
  - ii. Are other saints alive in heaven? **Yes!** “...[those saints] have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ...they are before the throne of God...” (Rev. 7:14-15).
  - iii. How do people become saints? They were “sanctified [made holy, set apart] **in Christ Jesus...**” (1Co. 1:2). The Bible tells us the order of salvation: **GOD** predestines, calls, justifies, and glorifies (Rom. 8:30); **He is just and the justifier** (Rom. 3:26).
  - iv. Are saints on earth sinless? **No!** Jesus is the only person to ever live without sin (Heb. 4:15). However, a person who is a saint through Jesus “purifies himself, just as [Jesus] is pure” (1 Jn. 3:3).
- b. **LCMS**: We agree with the Bible that **saints include** ▶all who died in Christ and are now in heaven, **and** ▶all on

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.vatican.va/content/catechism/en/part two/section two/chapter two/article 4/x indulgences.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/catechism/en/part%20two/section%20two/chapter%20two/article%204/x%20indulgences.html)

earth who, *by God's grace*, are continuing in Christ. However, a word of caution: **God does save** "...by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit" (Tit. 3:5) – *but saved people can fall away!* Here are two examples:

- i. **Luke 8:13** [Jesus said:] "...they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away."
  - ii. **1 Timothy 6:10** "...some by longing for [money] have wandered away from the faith..."
- c. **RCC**: According to *the Catechism of the Catholic Church glossary* (CCC, 1997), a **saint is**: "**The 'holy one' who leads a life in union with God through the grace of Christ and receives the reward of eternal life.**" // Sounds good, *but let's take a closer look.*
- i. What is meant by "**reward**"? A reward is something earned. **The CCC** says that "**...the joy of heaven [is] God's eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ.**" // **But the Bible** says: "**...the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**" (Rom. 6:23). Let us do our best *but let us trust alone in Jesus!*
  - ii. What about **physically alive** saints? They are not included in the CCC definition.

**3. Praying to Saints:** Can saints in heaven be mediators, in between us and God?

- a. **Bible and LCMS:** The Bible identifies **one mediator**: "**...there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus**" (1Ti. 2:5). // If we say there are others, *we contradict God's word.*

- b. **RCC:** The CCC encourages prayers to the saints in heaven: “We **can** and **should** ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world.” // Part of their Biblical support is **Revelation 8:3**, which does refer to “the prayers of all the saints...” // But what saints are being referenced? We believe those are prayers prayed by saints (believers) living on earth.

#### 4. **Living as Saints – Based on Ephesians 4:25-32:**

- a. “...speak truth each one of you with his neighbor...”
- b. “...be angry, and yet do not sin...”
- c. “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...”
- d. Be kind..., tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.”

#### 5. **Benefitting from All Saints Day:**

- a. All saints were saved like us—**through Jesus**; some lived extraordinary lives *and are good examples!*
- b. Amazingly, **God sees us as saints through Jesus!**
- c. Our loved ones who died in Christ **are with Jesus!**
- d. Amazing things are coming: “...many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 8:11).

**Let Us Pray:** Dear LORD, we are all undeserving, but You have made many saints *in Your sight* through Jesus. **Comfort** the mourning ones and **keep** us in Christ to the end!

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com); **YouTube and Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”  
**Facebook:** “Bethlehem Parma” / **Pastor:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915  
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230